

**Joint Meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations  
and the Senate Committee on Finance**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016-2017 Interim  
November 18, 2016

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 12:57 p.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman  
Representative Mark Abraham  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Franklin J. Foil  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Bob Hensgens  
Representative Katrina R. Jackson  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Walt Leger, III

Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Scott M. Simon  
Representative Julie Stokes

**SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Eric LaFleur, Co-Chairman  
Senator R.L. Bret Allain, III  
Senator Conrad Appel  
Senator Regina Ashford Barrow  
Senator Norbert N. "Norby" Chabert  
Senator Jack Donahue  
Senator James R. "Jim" Fannin  
Senator Sharon Hewitt

**SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Wesley T. Bishop  
Senator Ronnie Johns  
Senator Dan W. "Blade" Morrish  
Senator Gregory W. Tarver, Sr.  
Senator Francis C. Thompson  
Senator Michael A. Walsworth  
Senator Mack A. "Bodi" White, Jr.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Katie Andress, House Committee Secretary  
Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, House Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, House Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Nancy Keaton, House Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Sherry Phillips-Hymel, Senate Fiscal Services Director  
Ms. Jessica Miller, Senate Senior Secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

None

### **III. DISCUSSION**

#### **Office of Group Benefits Contracts**

Ms. Susan West, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Group Benefits (OGB), 1201 N. Third Street, Suite G-159, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed and requested approval of amendments to contracts between OGB and Peoples Health, and between OGB and Vantage Health Plan, Inc.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to approve the contract between OGB and Vantage Health Plan, Inc., to which Representative Edmonds objected. Representative Edmonds offered a substitute motion to approve the contract between OGB and Vantage Health Plan, Inc. without *change to "#14 Compliance with Laws"*, to which Representative Smith objected. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Jackson, McFarland, Miguez, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

The Senate lost a quorum and was unable to vote.

Present to provide information were Mr. Matthew Block, Executive Counsel, Governor's Office, 901 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7015, and Mr. Randy Davis, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Personnel, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, (225) 342-7000.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on the OGB Contracts is available upon request.

### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator LaFleur offered a motion to adjourn, to which there was no objection. The motion passed by a Senate vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays and a House vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Senators LaFleur, Allain, Appel, Barrow, Chabert, Donahue, Fannin, and Hewitt voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Jackson, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations